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JULY
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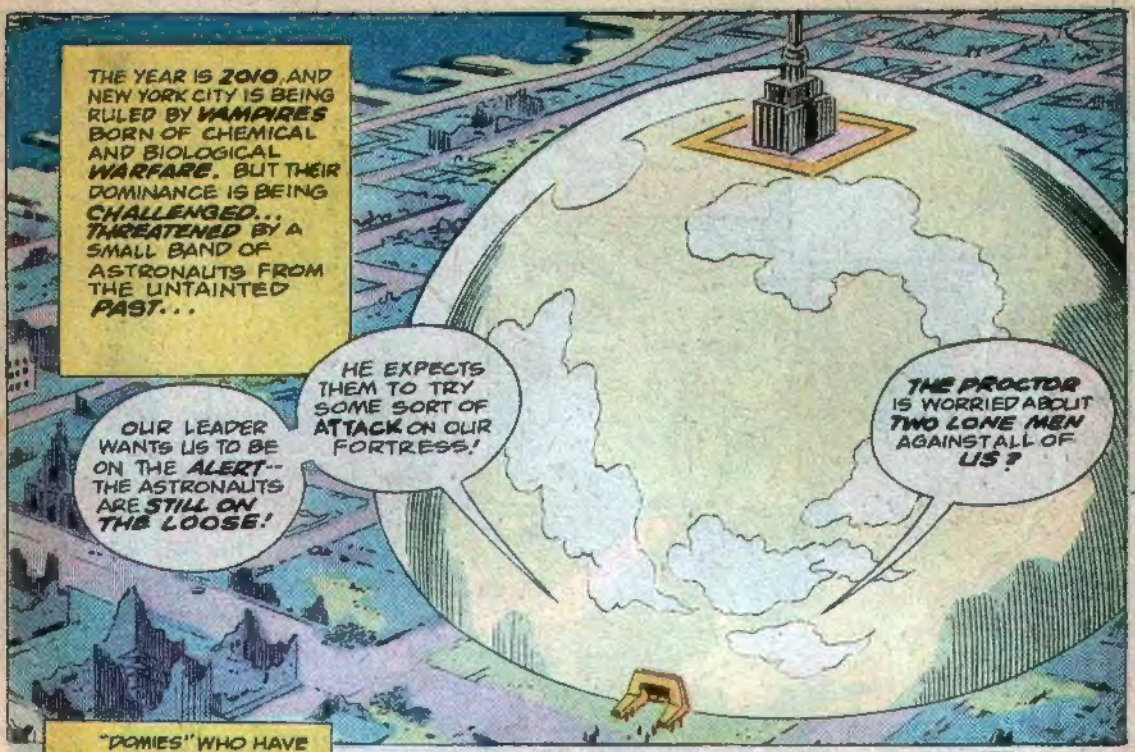
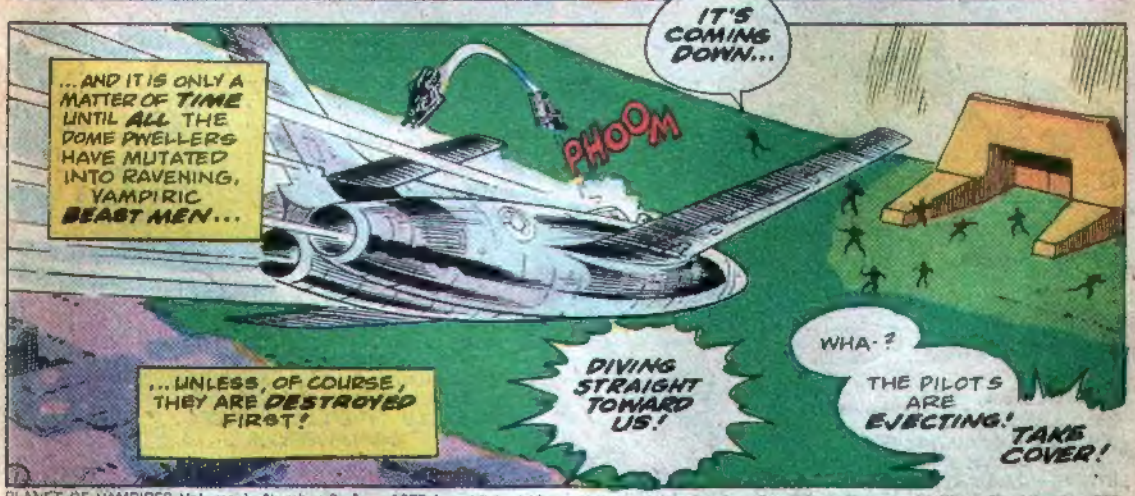
PLANET OF VAMPIRES ™
YOU'RE TOO LATE TO SAVE THE GIRL--OR YOURSELVES!
KILL! KILL!
THE VAMPIRE HUNTERS BATTLE THEIR BLOODLUSTING FOES--WITH ALL EARTH AS THE PRIZE!





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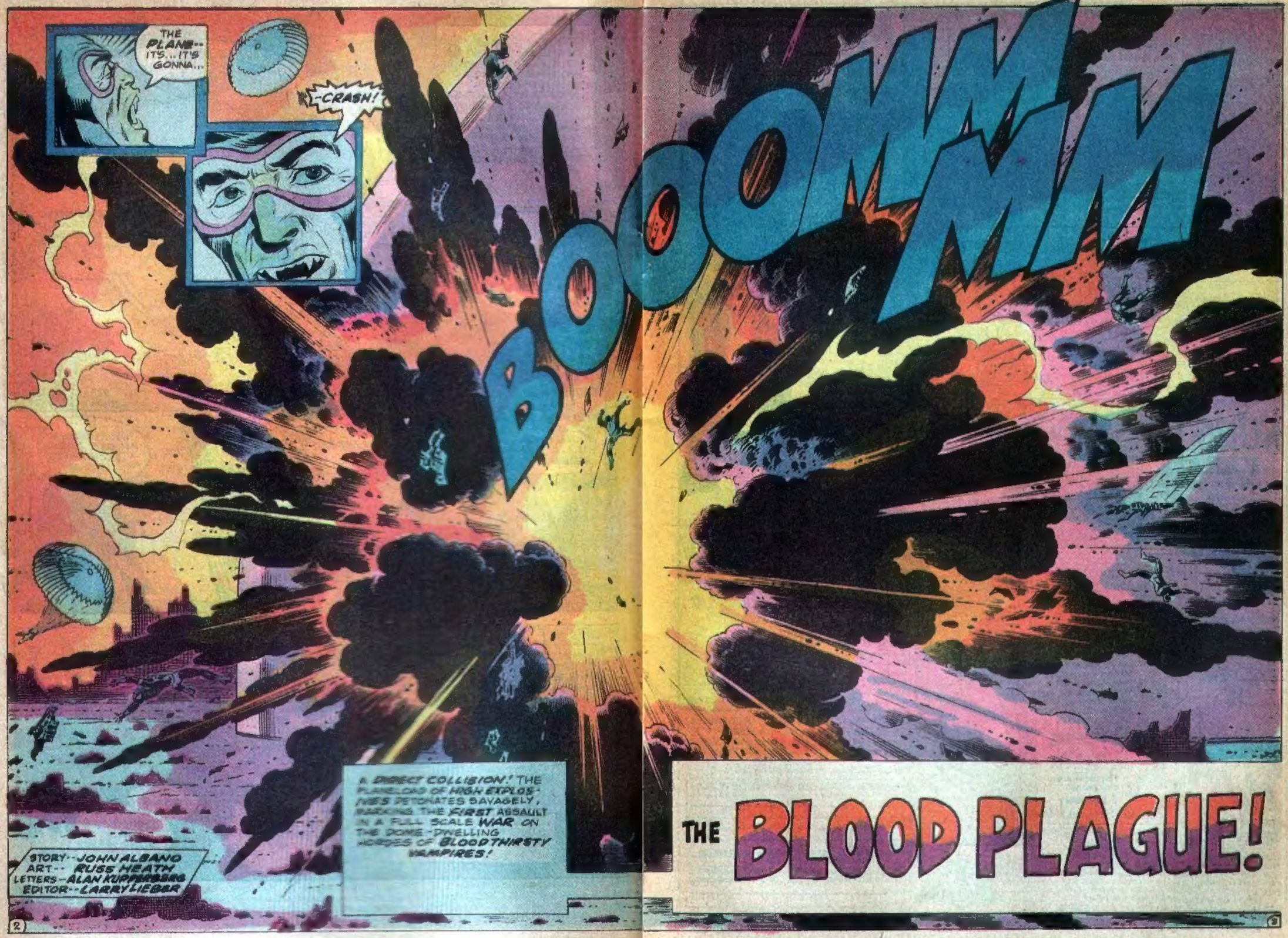

THE PLANE-- IT'S...IT'S GONNA...
-CRASH!
BOOOMMM
A DIRECT COLLISION! THE PLANELOAD OF HIGH EXPLOSIVES DETONATES SAVAGELY, DEALING THE FIRST ASSAULT IN A FULL SCALE WAR ON THE DOME-DWELLING HORDES OF BLOODTHIRSTY VAMPIRES!
STORY--JOHN ALBANO
ART--RUSS HEATH
LETTERS--ALAN KUPPERBERG
EDITOR--LARRY LIEBER
THE BLOOD PLAGUE!

WE DID IT, CRAIG! GETTING INSIDE THE VAMPIRES' DOME SHOULD BE EASY NOW!

YEAH! AS SOON AS THAT DUST CLEARS, WE BEGIN ROUND TWO WITH THOSE BLOOD-SUCKING YOYOS!

WE'LL USE THESE HAND GRENADES AND THAT BAZOOKA AS OUR CALLING CARDS!

CHECK! THAT OLD ABANDONED AIR FORCE BASE WE VISITED PAID BLUE CHIP DIVIDENDS!

WE FIXED THAT PLANE AND MADE IT OPERABLE...

THEN FOUND THE GOVERMENT AMMUNITION WAREHOUSE WITH ALL THESE GOODIES STACKED INSIDE!

MAN! EVER SINCE WE RETURNED FROM OUR FIVE-YEAR MARS PROBE AND LEARNED THAT A NUCLEAR WAR HAD BEEN WAGED HERE ON EARTH DURING OUR ABSENCE--

--WE'VE BEEN HASSLED BY THOSE DOME-DWELLING DEMONS!

LUCKILY, WE MANAGED TO ELUDE THEM, BUT THE DAMNED MONSTERS CAPTURED OUR WIVES...

THE DUST HAS CLEARED, CAPTAIN...

LET'S GET ON WITH OUR WAR!

HEY, WE DID A PRETTY GOOD DEMOLITION JOB HERE!
SO MUCH FOR LONG RANGE WARFARE... FROM HERE ON IN IT'S GOING TO BE CLOSE HAND COMBAT!

THE VAMPIRES ARE SITUATED AT THE TOP OF THIS STRUCTURE...
...AND NOW THAT THEY KNOW WE'RE ATTACKING, YOU CAN BE SURE THEY'LL BE ARRANGING A HOT WELCOMING COMMITTEE FOR US!
IT WOULD TAKE HOURS TO CLIMB UP 102 FLIGHTS OF STAIRS, CAPTAIN...!

BUT IF THIS ELEVATOR IS STILL WORKING---
CRAIG! DON'T TOUCH THAT--

WHOOM
--BUTTON!

MAN! HOW'D YOU KNOW THEY BOOBY-TRAPPED THAT ELEVATOR?
I'D HAVE BEEN SORT OF DISAPPOINTED IF THEY HADN'T, CRAIG!

AND, SOON AFTER, HIGH UP IN THE DOME...

GIMME SOME FIRING ROOM, PARTNER!
KRAK KRAK
ROGER!
AAIIIEEE!

CRIPES!
LOOK AT 'EM, CRAIG--THEY'VE GOT FREAKIN' FANGS!

AN' THEY GOT FRIENDS, TOO--
--A WHOLE DAMN VAMPIRE MARINE CORP!

EXCEPT REAL MARINES WOULDN'T HAVE BUNCHED UP LIKE THESE DUMMIES--
--MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO BRING DOWN THE ENTIRE SQUAD WITH A FEW WELL PLACED GRENADES!
WHOMM
BLAMM!
WHOOM

HEY, YOU KNOW SOMETHING, CAPTAIN?
I THINK WE BETTER GET MOVIN' BEFORE REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVE!
YEAH-- WE'VE GOT TO GET TO THE PROCTOR--

--BUT FIRST LET'S SEARCH FOR BRENDA AND ELISSA!
I GOT A HUNCH ABOUT THAT...

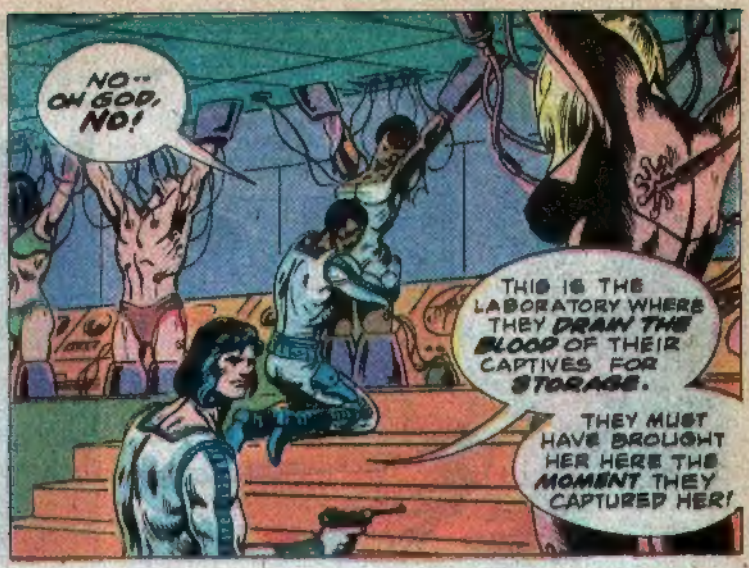
SO DO I--
--AND I DON'T LIKE WHAT I'M THINKING!
THIS IS THE LAB DOOR--

--BUT IT'S LOCKED!
WE'LL USE THE BAZOOKA!
LET'S GO!

WHOMM!

H-HOLY MOTHER OF G-GOD!
?

BRENDA!


NO-- OH GOD, NO!
THIS IS THE LABORATORY WHERE THEY DRAIN THE BLOOD OF THEIR CAPTIVES FOR STORAGE.
THEY MUST HAVE BROUGHT HER HERE THE MOMENT THEY CAPTURED HER!

SHE'S D-DEAD, CAPTAIN. MY B-BRENDA IS DEAD!
THEY KILL ALL THEIR VICTIMS, CRAIG--SUCK THEM AS DRY AS BONES IN THE DESERT!

C'MON, PARTNER... NOTHING MORE CAN BE DONE HERE--
GET OFF MY BACK, CAPTAIN!

I'M THROUGH... BECAUSE IT WAS ALL FOR NOTHIN'! THE SCHEMING WE DID, THE BATTLES WE FOUGHT--
--THEY WERE ALL FOR NOTHIN'!

WHAT'S LEFT TO FIGHT FOR?
YOU DO WHAT THE HELL YOU WANT...
ME-- I'M OUT OF IT!
I'LL CHECK BACK WITH YOU AFTER I'VE SETTLED UP WITH THE PROCTOR AND FOUND MY WIFE!

C-CAN'T BLAME HIM FOR COMING UNGLUED! THE SHOCK OF WHAT THOSE BLOODSUCKERS DID TO HIS WIFE WOULD HAVE TAKEN THE HEART OUT OF ANY MAN!

CAPTAIN CHRIS GALLAND STALKS THE CORRIDORS OF THE VAST DOME COMPLEX UNTIL HE REACHES A FAMILIAR DOOR...*

AH, YOU HAVE RETURNED FOR THE FINAL CONFRONTATION!

BAM

* SEE ISSUE #1--DAVE K.

Y-YOU-- YOU'VE CHANGED!

AND IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF YOU!

YOUR ATTACKS ON THIS FORTRESS HAVE PREVENTED US FROM OBTAINING THE SERUM THAT WE NEED TO STOP THE BLOOD PLAGUE!

A SERUM MADE FROM THE BLOOD OF LIVING HUMAN BEINGS!

NO NEED TO BE SO VEHEMENT, CAPTAIN.

SURELY YOU'RE WONDERING ABOUT YOUR WIFE.

PUT YOUR WEAPON DOWN, STEP IN, AND WE'LL DISCUSS TERMS FOR HER RETURN!

NO DICE, PROCTOR!

EXCEPT FOR THE AREA AROUND WHERE YOU'RE SITTING, THE FLOOR IS METAL--

--AND I'VE GOT A HUNCH THAT THE MOMENT I STEPPED ON IT, YOU'D PRESS ONE OF THOSE BUTTONS ON YOUR DESK--

--AND I'D GET A JOLT OF ELECTRICITY THAT WOULD BOUNCE ME AS HIGH AS THE CEILING!

MY CONGRATULATIONS, CAPTAIN...I HAVE GREAT RESPECT FOR ONE AS INTELLIGENT AND OBSERVING...

WHAT A PITY THAT FATE CHOSE FOR US TO BE ENEMIES RATHER THAN ALLIES!

IF YOUR FINGERS MOVE ONE INCH TOWARD THOSE BUTTONS, PROCTOR--

--YOU KNOW WHAT I'LL DO.

OF COURSE.

YET YOU KNOW THAT I MUST TRY, CAPTAIN...

...BECAUSE IT'S THE LAST CARD I HAVE LEFT TO PLAY!

I WARNED YOU!
KRAK!
AAAHHHH!
ONE DOWN AND 90,000 MORE TO GO!
TOO BAD I HAD TO EXTERMINATE HIM BEFORE I COULD FIND OUT ABOUT ELISSA--
CHRIS...!
CRAIG... WHA--?
ELISSA!
SHE'S OKAY, CAPTAIN... JUST A LITTLE WEAK!
I FOUND HER IN A LABORATORY ON THE FLOOR ABOVE. SOME OF HER BLOOD HAD BEEN DRAINED, BUT NOT ENOUGH TO CAUSE SERIOUS HARM!
THANK GOD!
UH CRAIG, ARE YOU...
I'M ALL RIGHT NOW, PARTNER--
--I JUST FEEL A LITTLE EMPTY ... LIKE PART OF MY SOUL DIED ALONG WITH BRENDA...
THE PROCTOR, CAPTAIN - WHAT HAPPENED?
HE'S WHERE HE BELONGS NOW--
--IN HELL!
C'MON, LET'S SPLIT! I'M SICK OF THESE HORROR CHAMBERS!
WE'LL USE ONE OF THE VAMPIRES' "FLOATER" CRAFTS!

TAKE IT EASY, CAPTAIN--DON'T FLY TOO LOW...

AND KEEP A SHARP EYE OUT FOR VAMPIRES!

HEY, YOU'RE TALKING LIKE YOU'RE NOT COMING WITH US, CRAIG...

I'M NOT. YOU FOLKS'RE FLYING SOLO THIS TRIP!

NO WAY, CRAIG! WE'RE PARTNERS, REMEMBER? NOW GET YOUR UGLY CARCASS ABOARD THIS CRAFT!

I'M STAYING, CAPTAIN! MY WIFE--

YOUR WIFE IS DEAD, CRAIG! AND THIS METROPOLIS IS JUST ONE BIG CEMETARY!

WHAT'S THE POINT IN REMAINING BEHIND...IN A CITY OF GHOSTS, VAMPIRES AND SAVAGES?

BECAUSE BRENDA'S ONE OF THOSE GHOSTS AND SOONER OR LATER SHE'LL BE LOOKING TO MAKE CONTACT WITH ME..

THAT'S WHY I'VE GOT TO STAY HERE, CHRIS--SO BRENDA'S GHOST CAN FIND ME.

OH, GOD...! HOW CAN YOU REASON WITH THAT KIND OF THINKING?

ALL RIGHT.. WE'LL LEAVE WITHOUT YOU!

G-GOOD-BYE, CHRIS...!

YEAH... AND, HEY--LOOK OUT FOR YOURSELF, WILLYA, CHUM...?

COULDN'T YOU HAVE DONE SOMETHING TO MAKE HIM COME WITH US, CHRIS?

MAYBE I COULD HAVE, E-SSA. IF I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO FIND SOMETHING BETTER WHERE WE'RE GOING... BUT I DON'T!

YET I THINK IT'S STILL WORTH LOOKING FOR A PLACE IN THIS WORLD WHERE HUMAN BEINGS STILL LIVE IN SOME SORT OF HARMONY!

BUT AFTER THOUSANDS OF MILES OF TRAVEL...

WE'VE FLOWN LOW OVER EVERY MAJOR CITY AND SMALL TOWN ACROSS THE COUNTRY WITHOUT SEEING ANY SIGN OF HUMAN LIFE...!

BUT THERE'S STILL A LOT OF LAND WE HAVEN'T COVERED, CRIS... MAYBE--

B-E-R-P. BR-E-P!

??

WHAT'S THAT NOISE!

THE FLOATER'S ENERGY IS RUNNING LOW.

WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO SET DOWN...

THERE'S A MEADOW OVER IN THAT PUBLIC PARK THAT LOOKS LIKE A GOOD SPOT!

BREER BEEP

WHAT CITY IS THIS, CHRIS?

LOS ANGELES!

MAN--LOOK AT THE HEIGHT OF THAT GRASS!

AND SHORTLY AFTER LANDING..

THE ENTIRE PARK LOOKS LIKE A JUNGLE!

THE VEGETATION HAS BEEN LEFT UNATTENDED IT'S BEEN GROWING WILD SINCE THE NUCLEAR WAR!

IT'S SO... PRIMITIVE LOOKING... I FEEL ALMOST AS IF WE'D TRAVELED BACK INTO THE AGE OF DINOSAURS!

HEY, THERE'S THE ZOO OVER HERE!

CHRIS-- LOOK AT THOSE ANIMAL CAGES!

THE BARS AND WIRE MESHES ARE ALL RIPPED AND BENT...

...THAT'S WEIRD-- REAL WEIRD!

I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I'M SUDDENLY GETTING REALLY BAD VIBES...!
IT'S JUST THE TOTAL DESOLATION, ELISSA... MAYBE WHEN WE MAKE IT OUT OF THIS PARK YOU'LL FEEL DIFFERENTLY!
I DOUBT IT-- THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE A SAFE AREA LEFT IN THIS...
EEEKK!
WHAT--?
S-SPIDERS!
GIANT SPIDERS!
CHRIS! G-GET THEM OFF M-ME--
GET T-THEM OFF!
MIGHT HIT ELISSA IF I USE MY REVOLVER--
--I'LL HAVE TO TRY MY KNIFE!
THEY'RE B-BITING ME-- SUCKING MY B-BLOOD!
THUD
THUD
STABBING THEM ISN'T DOING ANY GOOD... ONLY WAY I CAN FREE ELISSA IS TO CUT OFF THEIR LEGS!
CLUP
OH GOD! H-HURRY, CHRIS, PLEASE!

HIS POWERFUL RIGHT ARM **SLASHING AWAY** AT A FRANTIC PACE, THE CAPTAIN QUICKLY SUCCEEDS IN **DISMEMBERING** ONE **VAMPIRE SPIDER'S** LEGS, THEN, AFTER TOSSING IT ASIDE...

GOOD--THE SECOND INSECT HAS **RELEASED** ELISSA TO **ATTACK ME!**

URKK! BEING... **S-STRANGLED...** =CHOKE=...

GOTTA **STOP** IT B-BEFORE I **BLACK OUT...**

SUMMONING ALL HIS **REMAINING STRENGTH** IN A LAST FURIOUS BURST OF ACTION, THE CAPTAIN ROLLS HIS WEIGHT ATOP HIS ADVERSARY TO HOLD IT **IMMOBILE...** THEN, WITH REPEATED **THRUSTS** OF HIS BLADE, HE CUTS HIMSELF FREE!

AND FINALLY, DRIPPING WITH SWEAT...

DONE!

IT'S STILL **ALIVE**, BUT WITHOUT IT'S LEGS, IT'S **BEATEN!**

POOR ELISSA... THE **HORRORS** SHE'S EXPERIENCED THESE PAST FEW DAYS...

GOTTA TRY TO GET HER SOMEWHERE **SAFE...!**

SOMEHOW THOSE **CHEMICAL** AND **BIOLOGICAL** BOMBS HAVE AFFECTED THE GENES OF **LIVING THINGS,** TRANSFORMING MEN, ANIMALS AND INSECTS INTO NEW AND DEADLY **VAMPIRIC STRAINS!**

F-T-T-T

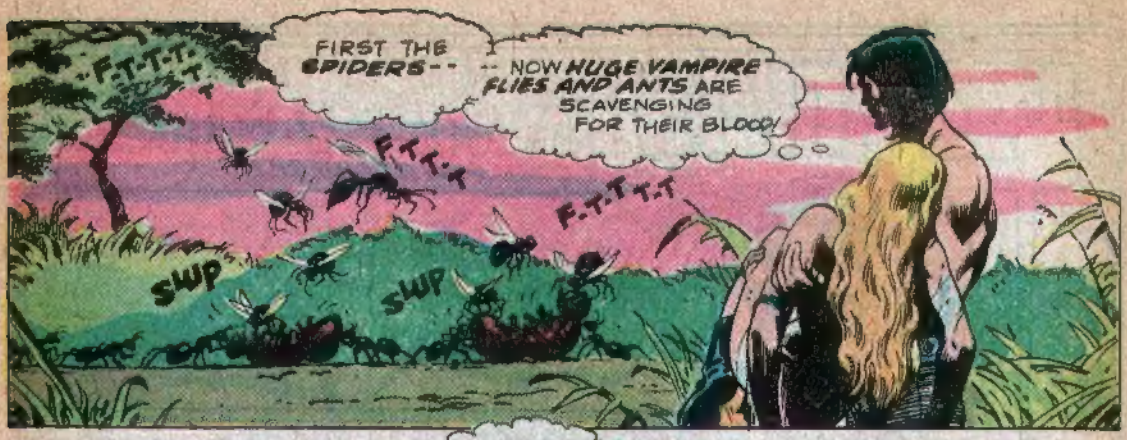
F-T-T-T

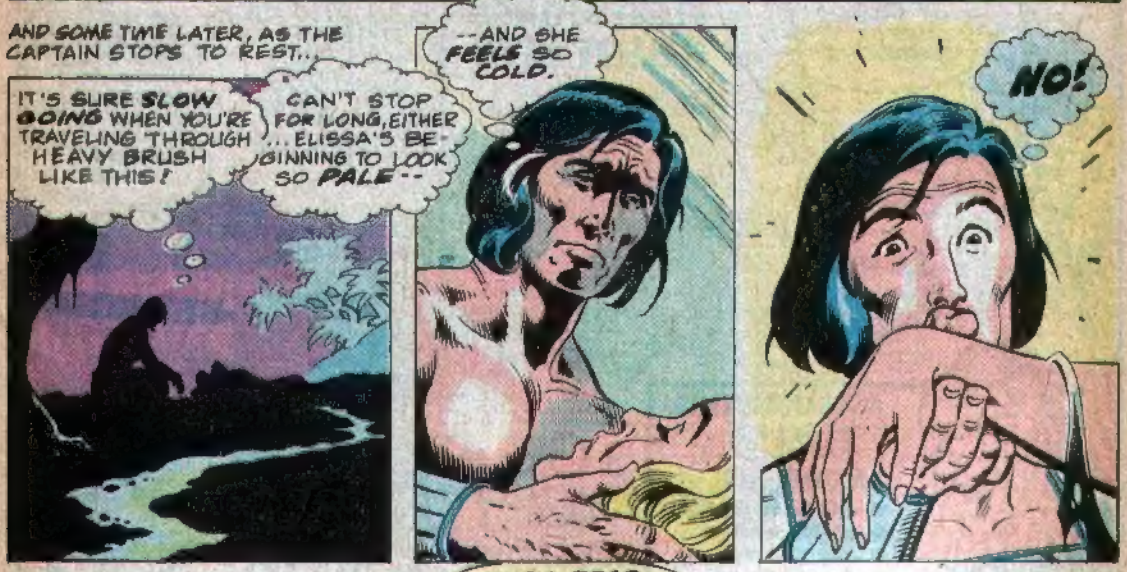
THOSE **SOUNDS...** WHA-?

OH, MAN!

R-RP!

R-RP

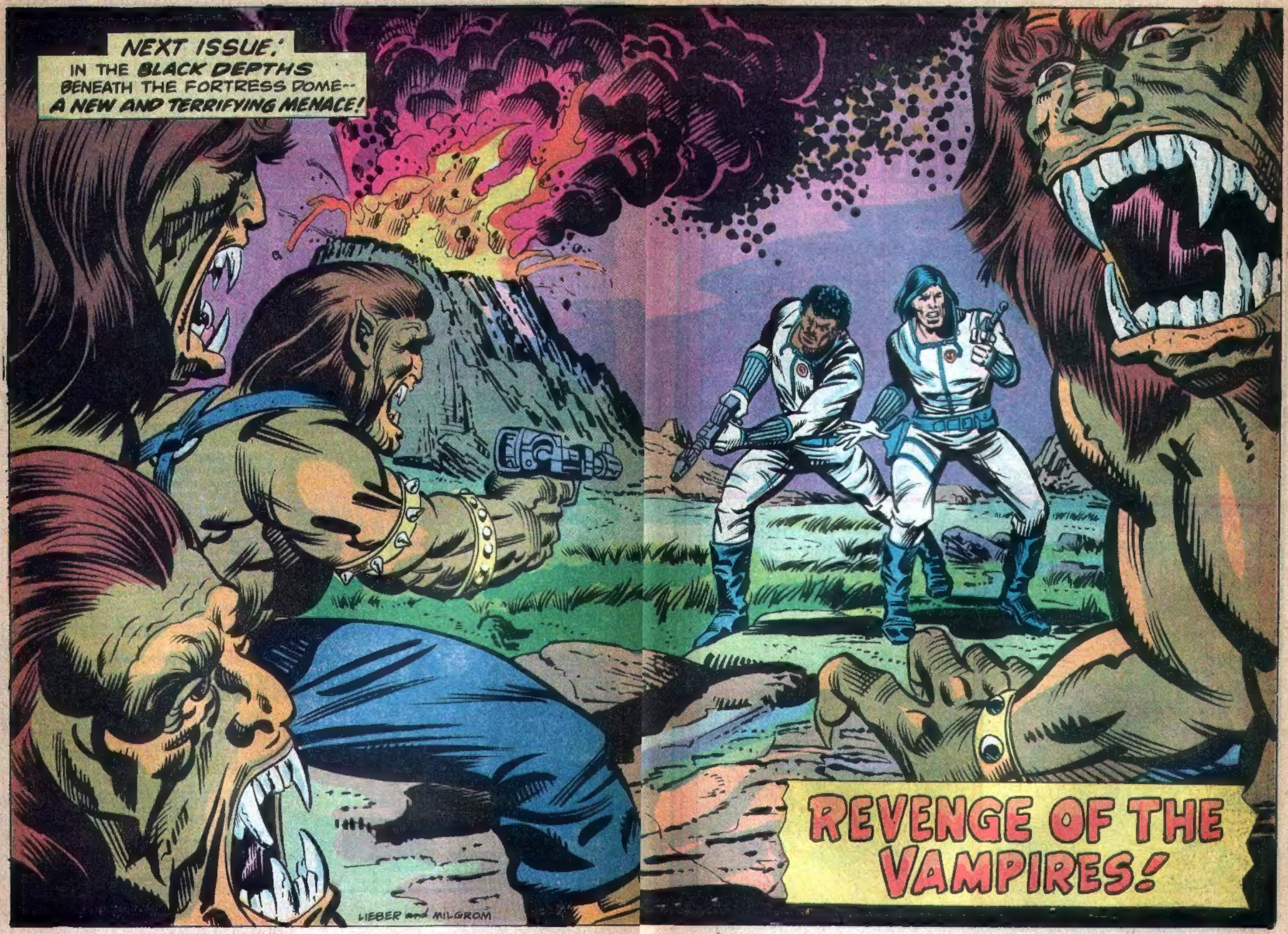

F-T-T-T-T
FIRST THE SPIDERS--
-- NOW HUGE VAMPIRE FLIES AND ANTS ARE SCAVENGING FOR THEIR BLOOD!
F-T-T-T
F-T-T-T-T
SWP
SWP


AND SOME TIME LATER, AS THE CAPTAIN STOPS TO REST...
IT'S SURE SLOW GOING WHEN YOU'RE TRAVELING THROUGH HEAVY BRUSH LIKE THIS!
CAN'T STOP FOR LONG, EITHER ... ELISSA'S BEGINNING TO LOOK SO PALE--
--AND SHE FEELS SO COLD.
NO!

ELISSA...
ELISSA!

SHE'S DEAD. T-THIS PLANET IS DAMNED--IT'S HELL!
E-EVERYTHING THAT'S BEAUTIFUL DIES!

EVERYTHING!
NEXT ISSUE: THE SECRET PROJECT!


NEXT ISSUE:
IN THE BLACK DEPTHS
BENEATH THE FORTRESS DOME--
A NEW AND TERRIFYING MENACE!
REVENGE OF THE VAMPIRES!
LIEBER and MILGROM